# UNITARIAN WORD & WORK

MAY
1918

The Monthly Bulletin of the American Unitarian Association, The Alliance of Unitarian Women, Young People's Religious Union, and The Unitarian Temperance Society

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AMERICAN UNITARIAN ASSOCIATION
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# THE UNITARIAN NATIONAL SOCIETIES

REPRESENTED IN THIS ISSUE OF WORD AND WORK

ALL OF THESE SOCIETIES have their headquarters in the building of the American Unitarian Association, 25 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass. The names of the principal officers of each society will be found on the first pages of the sections devoted to their respective organizations. The work and purpose of these societies may be stated in brief as follows:

## THE AMERICAN UNITARIAN ASSOCIATION

THE ASSOCIATION was founded in 1825, its object being "to diffuse the knowledge and promote the interests of pure Christianity." In furtherance of this purpose the Association publishes books, reports, and tracts; supports missionaries; establishes and maintains churches, and aids in supporting ministers; assists students in preparing for the ministry; and helps fellow-citizens of foreign birth and speech in entering upon their American life. It administers endowments for the benefit of schools and churches of the Unitarian order; for the relief of poor and worthy ministers and the widows of ministers; for providing public lectures in centers of population; for the benefit of schools for colored people in the South; and for many other beneficent purposes.

## THE ALLIANCE OF UNITARIAN WOMEN

THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE was organized in 1890, and has for its aims primarily to quicken the religious life of the Unitarian churches, and to bring the women of the denomination into closer acquaintance, co-operation and fellowship; to promote local organizations of women for missionary and denominational work; to bring them into helpful association; to collect and disseminate information regarding all matters of interest to the denomination, such as needs of local societies, facilities for meeting these needs, work to be done, the collection and distribution of money, and in general to devise ways and means for the most efficient usefulness of the women of the Unitarian fellowship.

## THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S RELIGIOUS UNION

THE UNION was organized in 1896, and its purposes are to foster the religious life; to bring the young people of the Unitarian churches into closer relations with one another; and to spread rational views of religion and to put into practice such principles of life and duty as tend to uplift mankind. The cardinal principles of the Union are truth, worship and service. It maintains a field secretary to promote the organization of the young people and to extend the fellowship of the Union.

## THE UNITARIAN TEMPERANCE SOCIETY

THE TEMPERANCE SOCIETY is practically the working committee of the Unitarian churches to promote the cause of temperance in every way possible. It publishes and freely distributes addresses, pamphlets, leaflets and tracts, and furnishes temperance news and facts to the public press. It arranges for conferences on the subject of temperance and sends speakers to general meetings where this subject may properly have a share in the interest and attention.

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## EDITORIAL

### Anniversary Week

It is to be hoped that many Unitarians in all parts of the country are planning to spend the greater part of the week beginning May 19 in Boston in attendance upon the annual meetings of the American Unitarian Association and the allied societies. The meetings of the week will begin with the Anniversary Sermon in Arlington Street Church on Sunday evening, May 19. Rev. Minot Simons of Cleveland, Ohio, is to be the preacher and the music will be rendered by the choir of the church. There will be morning prayer at 9 A.M. in King's Chapel on each of the mornings of the week, the leaders being Rev. Palfrey Perkins of Weston, Rev. E. D. Johnson of Salem, Rev. F. A. Gilmore of New York, Rev. F. G. Peabody, D.D., of Cambridge, and Rev. W. B. Geoghegan of New Bedford. The Tuesday morning service will be in commemoration of the ministers of our fellowship who have died during the year, and on Thursday morning will come the communion service. Vesper services will be conducted as in former years at the First Church at 5 P.M. The leaders will be Rev. James A. Fairley of Jamaica Plain, Rev. Frederick R. Griffin of Philadelphia, Rev. Paul R. Frothingham, D.D., of Arlington Street Church, Rev. Charles H. Lyttle of Brooklyn, and Rev. Arthur E. Wilson of Belfast, Me.

Monday morning at 10.15 comes the annual meeting of the Ministerial Union in King's Chapel. Rev. Frederick L. Hosmer, D.D., of Berkeley, Cal., is to be the speaker. Immediately following comes the public meeting of the Massachusetts Convention of Congregational Ministers. In the afternoon the Alliance holds its meeting in Tremont Temple. The speakers are Rev. D. R. Lupton of Louisville, Ky., and Rev. A. M. Rihbany of Boston. The Pension Society holds its eleventh annual meeting in Channing Hall at 4 o'clock. On Monday evening the League of Unitarian Laymen will have a dinner at 6 o'clock at the Engineer's Club. The speaker is Mr. W. R. Balch, War Correspondent of the *Evening Transcript*. The evening meeting will be at the First Parish Church, Harvard Square, Cambridge. It will be under the auspices of the War Work Council and the speakers will deal with themes connected with the war activities of our churches. The closing address will be given by Lieutenant Commander Thomas M. Osborne.

Tuesday morning and afternoon will be occupied by the sessions of the 93d Annual Meeting of the American Unitarian Association. The President, Secretary and Treasurer will present their reports in the morning and there will be other interesting addresses. In the afternoon there are to be four addresses on "Certain of our Unfinished Tasks" by Rev. Maxwell Savage of Lynn, Arthur E. Morgan, Esq., of Dayton, Ohio, Rev. Curtis W. Reese, of Des Moines, Ia., and

Rev. W. L. Sullivan, D.D., of New York City, followed by the election of officers and the transaction of business. In the evening the various societies will hold open house at 25 Beacon Street. This social gathering will be under the auspices of the Hospitality Committee.

On Wednesday at 10 A.M. the Berry Street Conference meets in the Second Church with Prof. Robert J. Hutcheon of Meadville as the speaker. The business meeting of The Alliance will be held in the First Church at the same hour. The Meadville Alumni Association luncheon and annual meeting comes at 12.30. The Temperance Society meets at 2 P.M. in the Arlington Street Church and the Festival comes in the evening.

On Thursday morning at 10 o'clock there will be the graduation exercises of the Tuckerman School in Channing Hall, with an address by Rev. A. M. Lord, D.D., of Providence, R. I. The Historical Society will hold its fifteenth annual meeting at 11 o'clock in King's Chapel. The Association of Ministers' Wives will meet with Mrs. S. A. Eliot at 25 Reservoir Street, Cambridge, at 3 in the afternoon. The Unitarian Sunday School Society holds afternoon and evening sessions as described later in the columns of this issue of WORD AND WORK.

The Young People's Religious Union occupies Friday with its regular meetings and holds an Out-of-Door Festival on Saturday. It is expected that the Free Religious Association will hold its usual meetings also on Friday, though no details have been as yet received.

The Hospitality Committee will serve luncheon as in former years at the Bulfinch Place Church on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

RETURNING from a two months' trip to the Pacific Coast the Editorial Secretary is more than ever convinced that the Unitarian message, rightly understood and properly presented, is not only a much needed and welcome gospel, but one with which successful churches can be organized and weak societies built up and strengthened. It may be true that no one person is authorized to tabulate the specific doctrines which characterize the Unitarian message; it is nevertheless a fact, that it can be recognized when it is presented, and it is quite as easy to recognize its absence when something else is offered in its stead. It has an unmistakable individuality, nourished by the lovers of reality and sound thinking for generations. Its frankness, its repugnance for vagueness and evasion, its willingness to work out conclusions in patience and industry, its distrust of magic and short-cuts and its deep-flowing faith in God and God's vital presence in the human soul — all these and many similar qualities render it visible to those who have the eyes to see it.

That was good Unitarianism which Emerson offered when he said, "Astronomy to the selfish becomes astrology; psychology, mesmerism (with intent to show where our spoons are gone); and anatomy and physiology become phrenology and palmistry." The true Unitarian preacher will not juggle with his mental processes and he will not abandon the plain highway of verified truth, for the sake of leading his hearers into a fool's paradise of irresponsible occultism.

In these communities, where the spirit and habit of Unitarianism is not widely known, there are two temptations that endanger the success of the Unitarian preacher. The first is the temptation to compromise with orthodoxy. Now there are many things in orthodoxy that are worth having, but not its creed nor its phraseology, nor (in certain types of liberal orthodoxy) its fatal effort to blow cold and hot at one and the same time. And the Unitarian preacher who undertakes to sing Unitarianism to orthodox words, or to preach the theology of Parker or Martineau to Billy Sunday's cue will never evolve a Unitarian church. Laodicean Unitarians are not a success.

But the other temptation which jeopardizes the work of Unitarian preachers is that of attempting to bring into existence a religion which

no one has ever thought of before; or to put together the fragments of a dozen cults, independently of Unitarian tradition and practice. The kind of mosaic which results from such efforts is a cubist production. Suitable eyes to see what it all means have not yet been evolved on this planet.

Unitarianism, whatever it may be, is known of its own, goes to its own and flourishes when, both in the pulpit and in the pew, it is true to type. To its genuine believers astronomy does not become astrology; psychology does not become mesmerism .and anatomy does not become palmistry — and, to extend Emerson's figure still further — Thought does not become "New Thought"; Science does not become "Christian Science"; Mysticism does not become "Theosophy"; and a Religious Service does not become an open forum for the discussion of everything from Ibsen to the Blackfoot Indians.

ANOTHER conclusion is forced upon the visitor who studies a considerable variety of Unitarian churches, viz., war conditions do not necessarily interfere with their progress and usefulness. On the contrary, war conditions, properly understood and wisely applied in the conduct of church work can be made to contribute new loyalty, increased activity and larger congregations. It is not necessarily true that because the attention of so many people is turned towards the war and the relief work of the Red Cross, etc., that, therefore, the usual functions of the church must languish. The very circumstances that cause some ministers to drop their hands and take it for granted that no one has any interest in the church, cause other ministers to discover untried methods and employ a greater following to their intelligent and industrious leadership.

In some cases war conditions have prompted hitherto unknown inspiration for the pulpit, quickened the spirit of humanitarian endeavor and uncovered avenues of pastoral service before unsuspected. And, in not a few instances that might be cited, the discovery has been made and utilized, that all the more because of the war, the foundations of spiritual influence can be made to flow with greater abundance than ever before. Among many Unitarian preachers who have the faculty of making the most of war conditions, preaching has become a more glorious function, and an eloquence, before rarely at their command, has taken possession of their tongues. Where such renewed adaptation of means to ends prevails the people have been eager to respond, empty pews have been filled and all the various branches of church work have been quickened into new enthusiasm and efficiency.

L. G. W.

# MAKE A TRIP TO BOSTON!

## ANNIVERSARY WEEK, MAY 19-24, 1918.

The meetings of this war-time Anniversary Week will be of special interest. Unitarians are urged to make an effort to attend and to increase the success and influence of the meetings.

Programmes will be sent early in May to all our ministers.

# American Unitarian Association

**Headquarters: 25 Beacon Street, Boston**

Rev. Samuel A. Eliot, D. D., *President* — Henry M. Williams, *Treasurer*
Rev. Louis C. Cornish, *Secretary* — W. Forbes Robertson, *Assistant Secretary*

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**Ministerial Personals**

Rev. Edward Hale died at Chestnut Hill on March 27. He had had a most honorable career as minister at Orange, N. J., Assistant Professor in the Harvard Divinity School, and for twenty-one years minister at Chestnut Hill.

Rev. Ernest J. Staples died at East Bridgewater, Mass., on April 15. He had served as minister at Waterbury, Conn., for four years and for the past three years at East Bridgewater.

Rev. Harry F. Burns, formerly of the Congregational Fellowship, has accepted a call to the First Parish at Dorchester. He has already entered upon his work.

Rev. R. S. Loring has resigned at Ann Arbor, Mich.

Rev. W. M. Backus has assumed charge for three months of the churches at Hackensack and Ridgewood, N. J.

Rev. J. L. Einstein has accepted an appointment under the Commission on Training Camp Activities and is at present stationed at Newport News, Va.

Rev. H. R. Williams of Concord, N. H., and Rev. George A. Mark of Roxbury have received appointments as Overseas Secretaries of the Y. M. C. A.

Rev. Earl C. Davis has completed his term of service as volunteer chaplain at Camp Devens and the War Work Council has appointed Rev. S. S. Robins to be his successor. He makes his headquarters at Y. M. C. A. Building 27.

Rev. W. A. Vrooman has accepted a call to Wilmington, Del.

**Journeys**

Dr. U. G. B. Pierce, D.D., is fulfilling the appointments announced in the last issue of Word and Work. During his absence the pulpit at Washington is supplied by Rev. R. S. Forbes of Germantown, Rev. J. H. Lathrop of Brooklyn, Rev. C. A. Wing of Baltimore, Rev. F. A. Gilmore of New York, Dr. S. A. Eliot and Dr. F. G. Peabody.

The Secretary of the Association and the Secretary of the Department of Religious Education have just returned from their westward journeys. Mr. Cornish has kept his appointments in the States of Michigan, Pennsylvania and New York, and Mr. Lawrance his appointments in Iowa, Illinois and Indiana.

Field Secretary Nobbs has returned from his journey in the South. His appointments during the past month have been at Melrose, Winchester, Uxbridge, and Natick, Mass., and two Sundays at Atlanta, Ga. He has also visited and spoken at a number of army camps and made several addresses under the auspices of the Food Conservation Commission.

Dr. S. M. Crothers has undertaken a brief journey this month with appointments at Pittsburgh, Wheeling, W. Va., Nashville, Tenn., and Cincinnati and Dayton, Ohio. At Dayton he will be one of the speakers at the Western Conference. Mr. Rihbany of Boston will also go out to the Conference and will preach at Toledo, Ohio.

**Finances**

Word and Work goes to press before the end of the financial year on April 30 and it is therefore impossible to make record in this number of the success of the churches in raising the money needed to carry forward their collective work. At the time of going to press the contributions are something over $45,000. Last year, omitting one large individual contribution which cannot be repeated, the churches and individuals contributed some $67,000. It is not improbable that this sum will be reached in the present fiscal year. The habit of the churches of postponing until the last moment the sending in of their contributions makes any estimate of the year's income utterly uncertain, but in previous years nearly a third of the

whole income has been paid during the last ten days. If this should be repeated this year the record will be a sufficiently satisfactory one and the Association will be able to close the fiscal year without debt.

The usual fluctuations have taken place in the gifts of the parishes, but on the whole the accustomed levels have been well maintained. Some of the large givers have this year given less than formerly, but on the other hand the Church in Cleveland, the First Church in Providence and the First Church in Brooklyn have materially increased their already large contributions. Arlington Street Church still heads the list, but these churches now rank next. The First Church in Philadelphia has restored its former gift of $1,000.

Among the moderate givers the following churches have made marked increases this year: Winchester, Fall River and Greenfield, Mass., Peterboro, N. H., Minneapolis, Minn., Cincinnati, O., Baltimore, Md., and New Orleans, La., while among the smaller givers there have been encouraging increases at Berkeley and San Diego, Cal., Wilmington, Del., Norwell, Kingston, Deerfield, Brighton, Gardner, Haverhill and East Bridgewater, Mass., St. Cloud, Minn., Portsmouth, N. H., Kansas City, Mo., New London, Conn., and Denver, Col. It is interesting to note that three of the aided churches in Canada made increases: The First Church in Winnipeg nearly doubles its former gifts and the Icelandic Church in Winnipeg and the church in Edmonton both give more than ever before. That means real sacrifice.

The steady loyalty of the contributing churches is highly gratifying to the officers and Directors of the Association and the success of the contributions is in many cases due to the energy and devotion of the ministers who must as a rule take the lead in all such cooperative enterprises.

**Board Meeting**

At the last meeting of the Board of Directors a number of important resolutions were adopted. One which does not directly concern the Unitarian constituency at large but which is a matter of importance to those who have charge of the detail of administration, and particularly of the accounting work at Headquarters, is the readjustment of the publication accounts, whereby the Beacon Press takes over the publication work of the Association except as it deals with free tracts. The President was instructed to appoint a Committee to consider and report upon the possibility of consolidating WORD AND WORK and *The Beacon* with the *Christian Register*. A report of the Committee on the Recruiting of the Ministry was adopted and Rev. Maxwell Savage appointed permanent secretary of the Committee. He has already begun his duties in this capacity. The Committee of the Ministerial Union on the Supply of Pulpits in New England submitted its annual report. It indicated that Mr. Manchester, the secretary of the Committee, had during the past year received 558 letters, written 621, had 839 personal interviews and 246 telephone calls. Fifteen ministers have been settled in New England through the activities of the Committee and six outside of New England.

The Board of Directors took occasion to reaffirm the complete loyalty of the Association to the Government in the prosecution of a just and necessary war, and

*Voted*: That any Society which employs a minister who is not a willing, earnest and outspoken supporter of the United States in the vigorous and resolute prosecution of the war cannot be considered eligible for aid from the Association.

The blank forms of application for aid for the new fiscal year beginning May first, have been sent out to the churches. The consideration of these applications is the responsibility of the Board of Directors to be elected at the Annual Meeting on May 21.

**Cooperative Programs for Conferences**

Every year in April, the New England Missionary Council, consisting of the Presidents and Secretaries of the Unitarian Conferences in New England and the officers

of the Association meets in Boston. Among other important things that this body does is to plan for the dates of the sessions of the Conferences, in order, as far as possible, to avoid conflicts. This year a very interesting plan is proposed, namely, to have a cooperative program for several of the Conferences. The essentials of the plan are to have a number of Conferences on successive days and to arrange for a team of speakers to speak at each of these in succession.

The Connecticut Valley Conference met the third week in April, and the Channing Conference the following week, both too early to join in this plan. But a number of Conferences which meet early in June are going into the plan. The tentative arrangement is for the Norfolk Conference to meet on Tuesday, June 4, (the place yet to be chosen); the South Middlesex Conference on Wednesday, June 5, at Framingham; the Worcester Conference at Leominister on Thursday, June 6; the Essex Conference (probably at Salem) on Friday, June 7.

While these plans are subject to revision it will be seen that it will be comparatively easy for speakers to attend these Conferences in succession. It is expected that at these sessions Rev. William L. Sullivan, D. D., of New York will speak on "A Deeper Spiritual Life"; Rev. Maxwell Savage of Lynn on "Our Ministry"; and Rev. Walter Reid Hunt of Orange, N. J., on "The Church and the Nation in Time of War."

The place and date of the North Middlesex Conference are not yet determined. The Plymouth and Bay Conference is to meet at Norwell on Wednesday, June 12, and the Cape Cod Conference probably the last week of June.

**Summer Work for Ministers**

During the last winter the Directors of the Association were given to understand that a number of Unitarian ministers were inclined to look forward with dissatisfaction to the usual period of idleness during the summer vacation. The President of the Association therefore appointed a Commission to make some suggestions to the ministers about possibilities for national service during the summer months. This Commission has made its report and copies have been sent to all the ministers of our fellowship. The Commission begins by expressing its belief that in this critical year the vacations of ministers should not be unduly prolonged. It urges the need of maintaining the churches in full strength and vigor. Experience has shown that as a rule it is not the minister of a church who desires a long vacation. Very often the minister is willing to stay on his job. It is apt to be the parish committee that decides that the church must be closed during the summer. It is much to be desired that this year ministers and parish committees should co-operate in keeping the fires burning on the altars of their churches.

The Commission's report goes on to point out various ways in which ministers can be helpful during some necessary vacation. It shows how a minister can be useful in the work of food production and conservation; in the cultivation of individual gardens; in the study and practice of canning fruits and vegetables; in stimulating the people of the church to have gardens of their own; in helping on small farms and in service as speakers on food conservation. It next suggests opportunities for forming and leading wood chopping groups; of doing moral and religious work in the neighborhood of the shipyards; of doing welfare work with and among the boys on the farms; of visiting and speaking in the camps and hospitals; of providing wholesome entertainments and helping in every way to develop the "win the war" spirit.

The report concludes with renewed urgency upon the primary responsibility of the ministers to promote and sustain the life and work of our schools and churches. The report contains many suggestions that may be as useful to laymen as to ministers.

**Devotional Services**

The daily religious services that were held in Room 3 at the Unitarian Building from January 3 until Easter proved a source of inspiration. These services, of but ten minutes duration (from ten minutes of twelve until noon), were attended by at least twenty and sometimes over thirty persons. The order was varied, but usually consisted of a Scriptural reading, a prayer, the singing of a hymn and the benediction. This pause in the day's occupation was one of real benefit, and served to instil that spirit of comradeship which is so often neglected in the rush of business affairs.

**Department of Publicity**

The severity of the past winter delayed the out-of-doors work of installing the Wayside Pulpit in northern latitudes, but with the spring there has been a pronounced movement for the extended use of it. It is in use in all parts of the country — Florida, Louisiana, Texas, California, Oregon, Minnesota, New England and many States within this great circle. Remarkable testimonials are coming in with regard to the attention that it is attracting and the influence that it is wielding. In many cities there is evidence that thousands of people have formed the habit of reading the vital messages of the Wayside Pulpit.

A new shipment of sheets has just gone out which will supply the regular subscribers until the end of June. It is of the highest importance that churches plan immediately with regard to their use of the Wayside Pulpit during the summer. It should be a comparatively simple matter for a church to arrange with some one to put out the sheets regularly during July and August, even if during part or all of this time the churches close for the customary summer vacation. In this way the summer crowds will still receive the messages and the church will in larger measure be kept in mind than if the pulpit is entirely silent. Sheets for July and August will be sent only to those subscribers who will undertake to use them faithfully.

It is interesting to observe not only the growth of the use of the Wayside Pulpit among the churches of our own fellowship, but among the churches of other denominations. Beyond the boundaries of our own country, too, its work is extending. Requests have come for it recently from France and from England.

The offer can still be made to a limited number of new subscribers that a full set of the sheets from last October will be sent. Attention is again called to the admirable Changeable Letter Device, which can be furnished with the Wayside Pulpit. This makes the most effective and dignified form of church-door announcement that has yet been devised.

All correspondence should be addressed to Rev. Henry Hallam Saunderson, 25 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass., Secretary of the Department of Publicity of the American Unitarian Association.

**War Work Council**

The General War-time Commission of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ held in April two Conferences of camp pastors, one at New York City, and one at Chicago. The Commission cordially invited Unitarian camp pastors to attend and they were represented at the New York meeting by Rev. Walter Reid Hunt, Volunteer Chaplain at Camp Upton, and at Chicago by Rev. Arthur T. Brown, Volunteer Chaplain at the Great Lakes Station. In giving his impressions of the Conference Mr. Hunt writes that the pervading spirit was broad and generous, and all present were deeply concerned in developing a manly type of genuine religion. Great stress was laid on the attitude of the camp pastor toward his own special work and toward the military establishment to which he goes with no particular standing. It can all be summed up in saying that he ought to be a gentleman and should conform to the decent amenities of life. The strong constructive note was sounded in the suggestion that camp pastors should get behind the army chaplains with their influence and support and help these

men, who are going with the army to the end, to a personal acquaintance with the units of the regiments which they serve. It was urged that Protestants should forget their religious and ecclesiastical differences and get behind the regular services for Protestants, making such services go and go strong, as is the case with the services supported by Catholics and Jews. The opinion was general that a uniform for volunteer chaplains should be adopted. It would save much time now spent in explanations and would give the men a measure of protection, increasingly needed as the lines are very properly more clearly drawn between the loyal and the disloyal. The Conference was broad guage from beginning to end. It was recognized that the camp pastor has a real function to perform, while at the same time he is at present on trial and that he can "meet his challenge only as he is a genuine, consecrated man who loves these boys with a love that passeth understanding."

With the coming of better weather the work on the Ayer Church is going forward more rapidly. The exterior has been greatly improved by taking down the spire and by the construction of a dignified entrance. Additional exits have been provided at the front and rear to conform to the requirements of the State Inspector, and finally the whole building has been given a coat of stucco which adds greatly to its fire-resisting quality and suits the style of architecture. The basement has become a beautiful Colonial room, finished in white, light, spacious and exceedingly attractive. The auditorium has been painted and renewed. The ugly rods which once disfigured the upper part of the room have been removed and when finished it will be as beautiful a house of worship as there is in the district.

The Secretary of the War Work Council invites some interested church or individual to contribute $20 for the entertainment of a party of sailors. The Bulfinch Place Church has given a number of very successful suppers and entertainments for the soldiers and sailors, but is unable to continue this work of hospitality indefinitely from its own resources. It stands ready, however, to give a party in May if the necessary funds are provided from outside. This is an opportunity for service which it seems should only need to be mentioned here to be at once accepted. There are many churches which are located too far from the camps or from the Boston mobilization stations to extend any hospitality to enlisted men. The offer of the Bulfinch Place Church to do the actual work in arranging and carrying through a party enables such more distant congregations to do their bit in this gracious work. Almost any church would be glad to know that its own young men had received such hospitable attentions, and what they would like to have provided for their own they will undoubtedly like themselves to provide for men in the service. The same thing may be true of individuals, and if any individual or family or church would like to give the necessary $20 to provide for a party, Mr. Forbes will be very glad to receive it or to put the interested people in connection with the Bulfinch Place Church.

**Department of Religious Education**

Field work in this department has been actively carried on in recent weeks. The Secretary has presented the Beacon Course in addresses at Trenton and Passaic, N. J., at Wilmington, Del., at Winchester, Mass., and before the Unitarian Club of Boston. He has conducted a campaign in the interest of Sunday-school work in the State of Iowa during April, giving two or three addresses in each of the leading churches, Davenport, Iowa City, Des Moines, Griswold and Sioux City, at Omaha, Neb., and at Geneseo, Ill. On the return trip he will speak at Indianapolis, Ind. Miss Buck has recently given addresses before the Sunday School Union of Boston, the Fitchburg Alliance, the officers and teachers of our Sunday School at Fitchburg, at Jamaica Plain and West Roxbury.

The annual meeting of the Unitarian Sunday School Society, which has usu-

ally been held morning and afternoon of Thursday in Anniversary Week, will this year be held in the afternoon and evening of Thursday, May 23. Both sessions will be held in Lorimer Hall, Tremont Temple. Besides the reports, business and President's Annual Report, there will be three short addresses at the afternoon session, with demonstrations to illustrate the topics. The theme to be treated is Cultivating the Spirit of Reverence in Sunday Schools; (a) Through Teaching How to Worship; (b) Through the Service of Graduation; (c) Through Special Service Celebrations. The speakers represent our Unitarian Sunday Schools at Buffalo, N. Y., Newton and Lynn, Mass., and will present work actually done in these schools during the year. For the demonstration of the last theme the closing section of an Easter pageant will be used, consisting of tableau and music, on the theme, The Immortality of Love and Service.

The evening session will open with a brief song service, conducted by Mr. Grant Drake, leading up to the consideration of the work of Sunday schools in war time. There will be two addresses, one on "New Forces in Religious Education" by Stephen Pierce Duggan, Ph.D., of the College of the City of New York; one on "The Soul of Youth and the War," by Rev. Caroline Bartlett Crane of Kalamazoo, Michigan. An interesting feature of the evening will be two five-minute addresses by members of Sunday-school classes, one from a class of young men on "Our Service Flag of Twenty-two Stars," one from a class of young women, "Our Calendar of War Verse and What It Did for the Red Cross."

Preparations for the two Institutes for Teacher Training held under the auspices of this department are now well advanced. The one at Proctor Academy, Andover, N. H., is the only one we hold in New England this year. It will open on Sunday, June 30, and close on Saturday, July 6. During that time the two members of the department will give five lectures each. Miss Buck will deal with methods of planning and presenting the lessons of the older grades in the Beacon Course. Dr. Lawrance will speak on these topics: The Beacon Course, its Purpose and Method; The Little Child in the Home and in the School; Passing On the Race Inheritance; The Age of Decision; Training for Citizenship in the Christian Commonwealth. Dr. Luther A. Weigle of Yale, who has a national reputation as one of the leading authorities in religious education, will give six lectures in the first four days, Monday to Thursday. His subjects are: Rewards and Punishments; Truth and Falsehood; The Use of Money; Interest and Discipline; Play and Amusement; Children and the War. Rev. Nelson J. Springer, Secretary of the Young People's Religious Union, will give two lectures, on Friday and Saturday, treating of the correlation of the educational forces of the church as represented by the Sunday school and the Y. P. R. U. There will be afternoon conferences and demonstrations, and lectures and addresses of general interest each evening. The provision for housing the members of the Institute in the buildings of Proctor Academy makes possible a social life and a group spirit which is an attractive feature. The schools of our New England churches should be largely represented at this Institute.

This year the Institute of Religious Education which is conducted by this department in cooperation with the Meadville Theological School will be held, not at Meadville as has been our custom for the nine preceding sessions, but in Chicago. It will begin on Monday, July 8, and continue two weeks. Dr. Theodore G. Soares of the University of Chicago, will give daily lectures beginning on Tuesday, July 9. His topics deal directly with religious education and with those elements of human life which must be considered if such education is to be effective. There will also be courses by Prof. Anna Garlin Spencer on Social Aspects of Education, and on Moral Education and Social Discipline. Dr. Francis A. Christie will give a course on The Beginning of the Christian Movement. Dr. Lawrance

and Miss Buck will be present and will deal with practical Sunday-school questions and the Beacon Course of instruction.

The fact that the summer session of Meadville Theological School is to be held this year at Chicago, offers an exceptional opportunity to Unitarian ministers, laymen and laywomen who may be able to devote the summer months to considering some of the most important problems facing our churches and church schools. Dr. Southworth will lecture through the entire summer quarter, June 17 to August 30, on Church Administration and Pastoral Care. Prof. Spencer will give two courses through the entire period, as will also Dr. Christie, who will treat of The Period of the Reformation and The Church in the Nineteenth Century. Other University courses will be open to students who have the qualifications which make them eligible for admission. Teachers in our schools and others who wish to take a more thorough course in religious education than the two-weeks Institute offers, are urged to consider a term of five weeks, June 17 to July 20, at Chicago. Correspondence with this department concerning the arrangements for such a course is solicited.

*New Hymn and Tune Book*

**Publication Department**

Since the last issue of WORD AND WORK the Christian Temple of Schenectady, N. Y., has ordered the *New Hymn and Tune Book*. Despite the continually advancing cost of materials and labor, the price of the *New Hymn and Tune Book* will not be increased, at least not before the fall. This assurance should encourage those churches which have not yet installed this book to give the matter their very earnest consideration during the coming months. The fact that a considerable number of the churches of other denominations, in addition to a large number of our own, have expressed their high regard for this book is abundant proof of its adaptability to various forms of religious worship. It is especially rich in hymns and services for the times through which we are now passing.

*The June Issue*

Following the usual custom the June number of WORD AND WORK will not appear until about the middle of the month. As this is the last number until fall it is always delayed in order to include the accounts of the meetings of Anniversary Week, which it would be impossible to do and get the paper out by June 1. Subscribers will, therefore, understand the reason for delay and not feel obliged to write to the Publication Agent if their paper fails to appear before June 15.


## GIVE A LIBERTY BOND TO THE UNITARIAN PENSION-RELIEF FUNDS

Join those generous men and women who have given or promised Liberty Loan Bonds to the Unitarian Pension Funds.

Be loyal both to your democratic country and your democratic church. Make one bond support both:—the principal sustains the government and the interest helps our aged ministers and their widows.

# The Alliance of Unitarian and Other Liberal Christian Women

Headquarters: Room 10, 25 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass.

Miss Lucy Lowell, *President*
25 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass.

Mrs. Lucia Clapp Noyes, *Treasurer*
25 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass.

Mrs. Caroline S. Atherton, *Rec. Sec.*,
25 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass.

Mrs. Robert H. Davis, *Cor. Sec.*,
226 Windermere Ave., Wayne, Pa.

"Religion in its very nature is eternal. So long as there is a man in the universe capable of thinking about the relation in which he stands to it, so long religion must remain, no matter what name it wears or what form it assumes. Religion, then, is one of the immortals. You may be sure that the process we are passing through, however many religions may die, does not mean the death of religion itself."

Minot J. Savage.

## The Alliance Anniversaries

*Monday, May 20, 1918, 2.30 p.m., Tremont Temple, Boston, Massachusetts.*

Public Meeting. Subject: *The Conservation of Spiritual Forces.* Devotional Service, conducted by Rev. Abbot Peterson. Addresses by Rev. Dilworth R. Lupton of Louisville, Ky., and Rev. Abraham M. Rihbany of Boston.

*Wednesday, May 22, 1918, 10 a.m., First Church, Berkeley and Marlborough Streets, Boston.*

Annual Meeting. Presentation of annual reports and transaction of business. Brief addresses. The following amendment to the By-Laws will be offered: Footnote to Article III, Section 4. *No individual shall be entitled to cast more than one vote upon any question, for instance, an individual may be an accredited delegate and a life member and as such may cast a vote in either capacity, but not in both.*

Accredited delegates and life members must present credentials. Delegates unable to be present may send credentials before the meeting to The Alliance, 25 Beacon Street, Boston.

Kindly note that credential cards are enclosed with this call.

Delegates should be chosen according to the By-Laws, Articles III and XI.

"The payment of one dollar annually to a branch shall constitute any woman a member of The Alliance when one-third of such fee is sent to the general treasury, shall entitle her to take part in deliberative meetings, and shall make her eligible to serve as a delegate to business meetings."

"Every organized branch, except associate branches, shall be entitled to one delegate for any number of members under thirty, and another delegate for each thirty members additional to the first thirty."

*Wednesday, May 22, 1918, 2 p.m., Vestry of South Congregational Church, Newbury and Exeter Streets, Boston.*

General and Department Conferences, Post Office Mission, Cheerful Letter, etc., for question and discussion.

Caroline S. Atherton,
*Recording Secretary.*

April 15, 1918.

The mail from the western coast is bringing to the Eastern Headquarters daily news of the visits Miss Lowell is so happily making among the Pacific Coast branches.

Miss Lowell herself writes, "I had a delightful day at Berkeley yesterday and this is to send word to the Board that the Unitarian School for the ministry asked me (through Dr. Wilbur and Dr. Morgan) to express their deep and warm appreciation of the help The Alliance always give to their poor students, through our annual contribution. As Dr. Morgan put it, they never

have well-to-do students, they always need help and the professors feel that the help from The Alliance is as certainly to be counted on as the Bank of England. I spoke to the class (three men and two women) and then they asked questions and we had a very interesting hour lunching together afterwards by invitation of Mrs. Russell at the Faculty Club of the University of California, Dr. and Mrs. Wilbur, Dr. and Mrs. Morgan, Mr. and Mrs. Russell, four students (one man had just heard of the death of his father and so was not there), and myself, a progressive lunch in that they changed the students so that all four sat by me in turn."

Dr. Rooney writes enthusiastically of Miss Lowell's visit to Southern California and the following Resolutions were adopted at the regular meeting of the Woman's Alliance of the First Unitarian Church, Los Angeles, Thursday, March 21, 1918.

*Resolved* That Miss Lowell's visit has given us great pleasure and satisfaction;

That we hope for added stimulus in our aims and work through her personally expressed interest;

That our Alliance wishes to send most cordial greetings to Headquarters, with an earnest expression of our loyalty and devotion to the Great Unitarian Cause.

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Interesting testimony has come to us in two letters from Mrs. Athelstane A. Taylor, 110 Norfolk House Road, Streatham, S. W. 16, London, Honorable Secretary of the U. S. A. Soldiers' Correspondence for the British League. Mrs. Taylor now has on her list sixty-three names of our soldiers abroad in the American Expeditionary Forces. She finds that the men show a touching and unexpected appreciation of the letters which are being written to them by English correspondents "even if they don't want to answer them." Dr. Bowie's booklet "For Freedom and Right" is sent to all the correspondents and "For Those Who Mourn" has been sent to the nearest relatives of those men who fall. Mrs. Taylor will welcome the names of any of our Unitarian men who are with the army abroad. Some times we are troubled because our letters from overseas are slow in reaching their goal when again and again we have heard how much our men depend on their letters. Good spirits and even victory sometimes wait on the coming of the mail. Since it is comparatively easy for English mail to reach our men, the women of the British League are offering us vital assistance which we shall appreciate more and more as the anxious months go by.

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## Executive Board

The regular meeting was held April 12 Mrs. Keyes presiding. There were present twenty members, two committee chairmen, and five branch presidents.

Greetings were received from Miss Lowell in Berkeley, Cal., with a message of appreciation from the Pacific School for the Ministry because of the great help The Alliance renders the School through its annual appeal. The Board telegraphed its greetings to Miss Lowell.

Mrs. Davis reported by letter from Shelter Neck, N. C.; from here she will go to Tallahassee and the Florida Circuit with Mrs. Peterson, visiting branches all the way along and the new group of Unitarians in Knoxville.

The Treasurer announced a bequest in prospect, The Alliance having been named residuary legatee in the will of Mrs. Emma B. Learnard of Danvers, Mass. *In memorian* have been placed the names of Mrs. Mary B. Viles Tenney, Miss Alice Butler Cary, and Mrs. Charlotte Elizabeth Smith by the branch at Lexington, Mass.; Mrs. Anna B. Park by First Church, Boston; Miss Elizabeth Eaton by Wellesley Hills, Mass.; Mrs. Emma Coffin Stone by Channing Branch Newton, Mass.; and Miss Isabella White by Belfast, Me.

It was voted to make the fee to the International Union of Liberal Christian Women ten dollars this year as for the past two years, The Alliance giving more than its quota in recognition of the many calls that have come to the British League and the other societies because of the war.

Letters and reports from the Italian committee and Mrs. Conte put the value of the efforts to spread the Liberal Gospel in Italy so convincingly that it was voted to refer the matter to the International and Appeals committee for consideration and report.

Mrs. C. R. Eliot asked for the Committee on Religion in the Home that a special shelf be reserved in the Circulating Library in The Alliance room for books bearing on the Committee's work, to contain in addition to several now in the Library fifteen or more supplied by the Committee. The request was granted. Mothers of young children will wish to consult these books.

The Board heard with sympathy resolutions passed by the Nantucket branch in memory of their beloved president, Mrs. Mary W. Valentine.

A new branch was reported, Fredonia, New York, Mrs. D. R. Pritchard, President, 31 Eagle Street; Mrs. Julia W. McDonald, Secretary, 40 Newton Street.

A new Junior Alliance is that of East Bridgewater, Mass., Miss Arleen Cross, President. Other Juniors will wish to write letters of welcome.

The Cheerful Letter committees have prepared scrapbooks for the men in service, and some really beautiful collections were shown at the last meeting of this committee.

Word was received from Mrs. Griffin of the Liberty Loan Campaign of the New York League: "It is going with a rush, Mrs. William L. Sullivan being chairman of the League's committee and working hard. We are to have two booths in the Equitable Building all the month, open from 9 to 5."

All who contributed books for the soldiers at Camp Otis will be glad to read the following from the Chaplain: "The books manifest a care in the selection and a knowledge of the wants of the military camp that are as unusual as they are gratifying. My regiment is made up of native Porto Ricans. In their name and in my own I thank you and your associates for your magnificent gift."

Reports were received from the Western States, and from Michigan to Nebraska sounded the same note: "In spite of the great stress of war work the women are loyally holding up their Alliances and seem to have gained in strength, in good fellowship, and in purpose."

The next meeting will occur May 17.

CAROLINE S. ATHERTON,
*Recording Secretary.*

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## Mrs. Davis at Shelter Neck

APRIL 7, 1918.

I got off all right, leaving Wednesday afternoon at 4 o'clock, and after an uncomfortable night's ride reached Watha about 9.30 in the morning, where I found Mrs. Peterson almost on the track, ready to help me off the train. It was warm and beautiful and we had a delightful drive through the pine woods to Shelter Neck, talking faster than her horse went, all the way. (There was so much for her to tell of the situation, and so much to plan for so that we could send letters back by noon mail). There have been many changes since I was here, the addition to the house, the new school-house and the Fifield well. I have been constantly impressed with the fact of how much could be done which is important, and almost necessary with a little more money. There are now six girls and two boys in the house, with the three teachers and Mr. Key whom Miss Briggs, the housekeeper, has to look out for, and everything moves smoothly and most systematically. All seem congenial, and my impression is that the teachers have never been better, but all have nearly frozen to death. I have been trying to find out what they think of the *plant*, whether this kind of work is worth while and they all say "decidedly so," and all cite instances of the improvement in not only the children but their parents and the entire community, in their life and attitude. But above all, they speak of Mrs. Peterson, and her indefatigable energy, and great tact and adaptability.

The girls here and of the school have

recently given a short entertainment, first in this schoolhouse, and then, upon solicitation, at two near-by towns for the benefit of the Red Cross, in which work these people are as much interested as those nearer large centers. Some of their boys are in camps, two from here are at the front, and a service flag with eight stars hangs in the school-room. I think the Alliance women in the north would have been much interested if they had seen the wonderful and really beautiful Colonial costumes which Mrs. Peterson made for the eight girls whom one of the teachers had taught to walk the Minuet. All the material for the costumes had come down in the Alliance barrels, and old velvet dresses, silk petticoats, fancy shawls, strips of cretonne, pieces of ribbon, lace curtians, frills of lace and collars, plumes and ornaments were combined to make the most attractive costumes. All had slippers with buckles made out of fancy buttons, some that Miss Low or Miss Peck had sent, and when the girls were all attired with their hair high, and powdered, their cheeks pink and their eyebrows pencilled and black velvet round their throats, the audience looked on in surprise, and of course the girls themselves were delighted. A few also gave a little play with a wonderful stage setting (our old bookcase curtains appeared) all quite equal to many I have seen in our Alliances elsewhere. From these performances, $125 was made for the Red Cross work, and the chapters were delighted. Then too, after school is over, every afternoon the girls are taught to sew, and I wish that you could see the lovely underclothes that all are making from a piece of longcloth sent from Newton Centre. These garments are trimmed with the lace they have made, and of course they all *knit*, and not a moment is wasted.

I wish that an air-ship could bring every Alliance woman in the country here for a week to see what our missionary work is, and that any incredulous one could realize that if we are not *building churches* with the money spent we are building *lives*.

On Friday we had the meeting of the branch here at the house and all the women sewed rags for rugs while I talked to them. All seemed much interested and asked questions. They elected officers, paid their dues, and if you could see the bare homes some of them came from, you would wonder that they could care, but they all *love* Mrs. Peterson and one said, "It is her *religion* that makes her work so hard, and do such wonderful things." Last evening we had the Saturday evening at the schoolhouse, with music, games, and marches, etc., and such *funny* games! all enjoyed by young and old of the community, so much more wholesome than the "movies" of our cities.

Today is Sunday and we are expecting Mr. Cowan and I shall talk with him about his stations. No service this morning but Sunday School in the afternoon and this evening a service, singing, and they want me to speak. I have not thought what I can say. It may come to me when I look into the faces of the people, some satisfied, some longing for their children if not for themselves. All have large families and all are hard working. I asked one woman if they minded the change of time, and she said, "Why no, we only change our clocks on account of *train time* at Watha, we work anyway from sunrise till dusk!"

When I realize that if *every* branch in the country would give a little toward our missionary work it would make things so much easier, I feel that I ought to devote the rest of my life to going about and trying to impart my enthusiasm to others, but I do what I can.

Mrs. Peterson and I start tomorrow morning for Charleston, S. C. We arrive late at night, have a meeting on Tuesday, travel all night and reach Jacksonville for a meeting Wednesday afternoon, and leave the next morning for Tallahassee and Mr. Zastrow's circuit. Beyond there, dates are not definitely arranged, but of course Atlanta and Chattanooga are Mrs. Petersons's branches which she had expected to

visit and Memphis and Birmingham can be taken on the way. Then when she leaves me I am planning for Knoxville, as Mr. Wilson wrote me sending me names, and just before I left home I wrote to the secretary of the society asking for an appointment. I shall stop at Richmond and Highland Springs, and expect to reach home for a meeting of the Philadelphia League, May 2nd.

MARY B. DAVIS.

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## Junior Fellowship Notes

We are glad to report the recent organization of two new Junior Alliances, one in Bridgewater and the other in Hopedale, Mass. In the latter a club of younger girls,—"The Loyal Workers," — have been doing good work for some time.

It is interesting to see how similar is the purpose and the work, whether the organization is called a club, Lend-a-Hand, Junior Alliance, or Camp Fire A group of the latter at Roslindale Mass., report as follows: The girls assist in the work of the All ance in every possible way. They always have charge of a table at the annual fair, and serve at church suppers. They earned all the money to pay for the fire place in the new Parish House parlor which cost $125. This year they have pledged to the church one-third of all the money they raise. They met once a week all summer to make trench candles, and earned the money to buy wool which they knit into sweaters and helmets for soldiers in service on islands in Boston Harbor. They gave a Christmas party to forty-eight children less fortunate than themselves. Each girl wrote an invitation to some child, and provided a gift for her guest, who also received a pop-corn ball and bag of candy from the tree. They were games, songs and refreshments. Seven of the older members responded to a call for Sunday School teachers last fall. Everyone is busy, yet all co-operate most willingly in any work decided upon, and in three years not one has dropped out of membership.

## Camp Devens Fund

The following additional contributions to the Camp Devens Fund through the New England Associate Alliance are gratefully acknowledged:

STELLA P. BEARD, *Treasurer.*

| | |
|---|---|
| Sterling, Mass. | $5.00 |
| First Parish, Dorchester | 5.00 |
| Gardner, Mass. | 5.00 |
| Lawrence, Mass. | 2.00 |
| Jamaica Plain, Mass. | 5.00 |
| Westford, Mass. | 5.00 |
| Somerville, Mass., (ad.) | 10.00 |
| Belmont, Mass., (ad.) | 10.00 |
| Revere, Mass. | 5.00 |

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## Madam Duse and the Italian Free Believers

(*From a letter from Madame Clorinda Conte*)

"I have just received a most enjoyable and quite unexpected call from the great Italian actress, Eleonora Duse. It may prove of interest to you to learn that she is a regular subscriber to the 'Riforma Italiana,' and that she made her appearance in my home with an open copy of it in her hand. After expressing a very sincere interest in the work of the Society of Italian Free Believers, she requested that I favour her with a more detailed outline of its campaign. When I had finished giving her the desired information she said:

'Well, that is precisely the sort of thing I have felt the need of for a long time, and is what I have so desired to know more about. We Italians can no longer remain Catholics; we must take up the fight in dead earnest against scepticism. We are eager to associate ourselves with a faith-inspiring religious work, but must refuse to identify ourselves with one which forces a Creed upon us. We are ready to receive a faith like this, which stands for spiritual progress, which elevates the soul, and which leads to all that is best in religion and life.

Your Review has come to us none too soon, for it offers to Italy the things of which she is most sorely in need: free-

dom to worship God according to the promptings of conscience, a true faith, and untiring activities in proclaiming a grand ideal. The duty of well-doing is an ever present one, but now, more than ever before, we are called upon to exert ourselves to the utmost, that our brave soldiers may be helped and strengthened and that the cause of freedom may eventually triumph.

In your Review I find expressions of exceptionally beautiful sentiments; words which serve as an inspiration, and which must accomplish a world of good. From it your readers may catch a glimpse of life as it should be lived. Yes, you are doing a noble work in order that our dear Italy may be saved, and we must all join forces to that great end.'

As she finished speaking, she stood before us fairly radiant with joy and enthusiasm. She had brought with her a young lady who was in great need of spiritual help and comfort. After conversing with her for a time, I gave her some reading matter which I felt would serve in helping her to regain her peace of mind, at the same time promising to send her a young officer, who has been blinded in the war, that she might help to render his burden less heavy by reading to, and conversing with him. Our little talk had been productive of good results, as the young lady had completely regained command over herself, and hope and courage had returned. Promising each other we should meet again soon, Eleonora Duse, and her young companion took their leave.

May not this celebrated lady's case be considered only one more of the many illustrations that are daily picturing to us the general Italian state of mind, the soul yearnings of our people? Yearning for, and absolutely in need of a rational faith, and a belief that is measured by the good deeds of he who professes it."

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## News from the Branches

Mrs. Woodbridge, director for Eastern Pennsylvania, writes of her district: "As the directors of the various sections of the country report at one monthly meeting after another, the key-note of all these Alliance reports is war work,—and this is as it should be. During the Civil War Unitarians were ardently enthusiastic in just such work as we are throwing ourselves into, in this worst of all wars. It seems without doubt that each Branch is doing its utmost, and though it may appear vain-glorious to assert it, yet there surely must be something extraordinarily keen and clever about Unitarian women. If not, why does the same story come from widely separated sections, to the effect that our special auxiliaries hand in better work than that done by any others. Evidently our knitting, sewing and making of surgical dressings is much appreciated, even if our theological views are not.

Patriotism burns with great warmth in and around the old City of Philadelphia, and yet we are endeavoring to keep to the broadest view of the necessities of the times and not to cripple other work not directly connected with the war, but which must continue just the same, such as charitable, civic and church work."

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At the April meeting of the New York League in Unity Church, Brooklyn, Mr. Charles Lyttle spoke of the needs of the Meadville Theological School, Rev. W. L. Sullivan and Mrs. A. J. Hemphill spoke for the Liberty Loan Committee and an address "The Service of the Drama to the Community" was given by Dr. William Felter of the Girls' High School of Brooklyn.

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## Appeals

Appeals stand as follows:

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| Young People's Religious Union | $247.50 |
| White Plains, N. Y. | 220.50 |
| Southern Circuit in addition to pledges | 322.00 |
| War Relief (unlimited) | |
| Already contributed for Mme. Loyson's Hospital | 417.50 |
| Already contributed for Mrs. Weller's Hospital Work | 50.00 |

# Young People's Religious Union of the Unitarian Church

Headquarters: Room 11, 25 Beacon Street, Boston

Rev. Frederick M. Eliot, *President*

Rev. Nelson J. Springer, *Secretary* Mr. O. Arthur McMurdie, *Treasurer*

Nearing the end of a year of experimentation and new departure, which has met more largely with success than with failure, I venture to make a personal appeal to the Y. P. R. U. and its whole constituency for a renewed courage. We are confronted with even greater, and more numerous, exigencies than ever before. To that extent the difficulties which beset any operation of our executive staff, whether in the direction of a financial or a religious goal, are greatly enhanced; but this fact, rather than proving that we ought to recede from our intentions of expansion demonstrates the need of our doing everything that human ingenuity may achieve to make the future safe for Unitarianism.

We are living in an age of illiberalism and reactionary ascendancy. Imperialism, both in government and religion, menaces the free ideals and institutions we have fostered. The emperor and the evangelist march side by side to the trampling down of freedom. If there is to be any liberty, if there is to be any progress, the interests of our young people must be conserved.

On Boston Common there is a statue of Wendell Phillips. Upon its base is inscribed his immortal declaration: *Whether in laurels or in chains, liberty knows nothing but victories*! Let the Young People's Religious Union write that legend in letters of fire across the firmament of its aspirations! Let it never for an instant conceive of any movement in any other direction than forward! If we are the spiritual children of Emerson, then we shall regard Prudence as the most niggardly of virtues; and, rather than temper our discretion with our daring, we shall reverse the process, and make daring our chief virtue.

I, for one, shall never recede from the present position of the organization, a position which, by its degree of achieved success, demands the immediate augmentation of our paid executive staff and the expansion of our efforts and sphere of influence. Whether or not there are funds on hand or in sight to finance our undertakings, I am convinced we should launch them as if the first allegiance of all Unitarians belonged to the Young People's Religious Union. Whether or not we fall short of our aims is of no consequence now. In the past year we have done all that we hoped to do, and more. We have won a definite attention from the denomination as a whole which exceeds any previous prominence we have enjoyed. We are in the midst of a series of public meetings more notable than we might ever have hoped to conduct. We have the endorsement of all Unitarian national organizations. The enthusiasm of young people themselves is at high watermark. We are not without a share of volunteer genius which is generally at our service. Although it has been said that the qualifications set forth for the proposed office secretary are "humanly impossible of fulfilment," there are at least a dozen people who can meet all of these qualifications, and who, because of their devotion to our cause, will meet those qualifications in return for the mere living wage we can offer, a fact which knocks the doctrine of impossibility into a cocked hat.

The office of field secretary must and shall be continued; and the field secrearty should penetrate to the Pacific Coast during the coming year. Before the expenses of any other office are met, the expenses of this office must be met, because it is our chief source of service to the individual unions, and our chief means of publicity and strength. But we must elect and retain the services of an office secretary meeting the qualifica-

tions previously published; and we must do something to secure the final achievement of this end. If there is one person anywhere, and I am confident of more than one, who has the courage of Unitarian youth to share our fortunes in this enterprise with the hope of success, we must join forces with that person, and force the issue of our undertaking.

Does anyone suppose that by waiting a year we shall gain anything else than the privilege of waiting another year and another, and another? Has waiting ever gained us anything else in the past? Our choice lies between waiting and action; and the time for waiting is past. The office of field secretary can do, and has done, much, unassisted by anything like an adequate conduct of the affairs of the office. Is it reasonable to believe that the office of field secretary can not do more with the office properly taken care of?

In the name of Francis David, who died in prison, in the name of Servetus, burned at the stake, in the name of Theophilus Lindsey, who went down into London to preach Unitarianism when there was no freedom for Unitarians in England, in the name of Theodore Parker who went forth to preach in Boston with the assurance of but ten men to listen to him, in the name of these and all that other host of our fathers, who cast prudence to the winds, and dared to go forward, let us ourselves be Unitarians, and dare again.

Does our religion come first, or is there something else? Do we carry on the work of the Young People's Religious Union in any degree that is convenient, or do we sacrifice for it? Is its annual meeting a dinner dance, or is it a conclave of consecration? Are its board meetings pink teas, or the councils of spiritual warfare? If there is any health in us, let us regard ourselves, our organization, and our work in this light. Let us think of ourselves as nothing less than religious. Let us hope for nothing less than the ultimate triumph of our ideals. Let us give nothing less than our all for this consummation. The time has come for Unitarians, and particularly young Unitarians, to be, not bands of ethical culturalists, not groups of liberal religionists, not members of a local and separate religious society, but *Members of the Historic, Holy, Catholic, Universal and Invisible Unitarian Church.*

Channing would have scorned less than this. Starr King would never have conceded less than this. Edward Everett Hale would have been nothing less than this. We honor their memories with our lips. It is time for us to add our lives.

During the present year we have added nineteen new societies to our constituency. Do we fear to go on? We have covered all the territory between here and Des Moines. Do we fear to go to the Coast? We have made our organization at least national in its influence. Are we to recede to a provincial character? Shall we do more next year than this, or shall we merely mark time? Must we wait? For what? For a better opportunity? There will be no such thing. There can be no such thing. Does anyone believe that there is a better time to strike than in an hour of success? There is only one way in which to do a thing, and that is to do it. To consider failure before failure has been experienced or even intimated is worse than folly. Let us dare again.

We urge, and we can not urge too strongly, that every constituent society of the Y. P. R. U. send its full quota of three delegates to the annual meeting, to learn in detail of the year's accomplishments, and to help achieve a representative formulation of our policies and specific programs for the coming year. Remember that at the present time our "Spring Drive" has not yet reached its crest. The full influence of its appeal will not be felt for some time. We are justified in regarding the future as friendly, if we do not misunderstand the unusual cooperation we receive at present.

All this is not, as might be suspected, a flood of passion elicited by nothing. It rests on the understanding that the highest effectiveness of the field secretary

depends on the complete development of all the implications latent in the now undeveloped and potential Extension Committee, with its substructure of District Supervisors. Presumably the place of a field secretary is in the field. If such an official were to report at the end of a year a long period of activity in the office, and merely a cursory attention to the field, he would be susceptible of severe adverse criticism, not because there is not at present a real need of his services in the offices, but because he is not elected to fulfil such a function. It follows, therefore, that the field secretary can not develop the Extension Committee; and, the loyalty of the board notwithstanding, it is clear to those who know, that the board can not do so.

The only person who can is a secretary in the office with full time to devote to the project.

The development of the Extension Committee and its resources which I have in mind suggest the following ramifications: (1) insofar as possible the use of district supervisors, especially in remote districts, for field work; (2) the use of supervisors for organizing societies into federations; (3) the use of supervisors for obtaining information that is more than statistical, viz., the nature of parishes, young people, societies, etc.; (4) the employment of supervisors and federations formed by them for guaranteeing a minimum annual income from the unions to the national treasury; (5) the possibility of enhancing the value of annual meetings by bringing supervisors from time to time to inform the assembled delegates of the work and conditions in their particular districts; (6) the use of supervisors for local, intensive application of publicity campaigns; (7) the use of supervisors to prepare societies for specific visits of the field secretary. It ought to begin to be clear why the Extension Committee can be one of our most powerful instruments; and it ought to begin to be equally clear, in this light, why an office secretary will be valuable.

Send three delegates to the annual meeting, May 24, at 2 p. m., in the First Parish Church, Cambridge. Following the annual meeting there will be a reception to old and new officers. At six o'clock a collation will be served. At 7.30 Mr. Walter Prichard Eaton, eminent author and publicist, former president of our organization, will speak. Mr. Eaton's engagement for the evening is one of the great successes of our year's work. Remain for Saturday. On Saturday, we are planning an out-door field-day, picnic, and jollification combined. We have cause to celebrate. We are coming to the close of a highly successful year. We are entering on a year that will be even more successful. But remember this. The annual meeting is of the utmost importance. The effect of its transactions will be far-reaching. Send your delegates.

Delegates coming from a distance should notify me at 25 Beacon St., of their desire of entertainment while in Boston, and should do so immediately.

Remember! These are the years of opportunity. Our slogan should be *forward*. Let us leave nothing unsaid that we can say, nothing undone that we can do, to guarantee that the Young People's Religious Union in the future, as in the past, shall go forward.

NELSON J. SPRINGER.

## Unitarian Temperance Society

Rev. John Haynes Holmes, *President*, New York, N. Y.
Mrs. Frank L. Young, *Vice-President*, Dorchester, Mass.
Rev. Lyman V. Rutledge, *Secretary, pro tem.*, Cambridge, Mass.
Charles H. Stearns, *Treasurer*, Brookline, Mass.

# RATIFICATION YEAR

Eleven states have already ratified the Constitutional Amendment to Prohibition. Eight of these states are Democratic states; three are Republican, one being the state where Unitarianism runs strong—*Massachusetts.*

Next year every Legislature meets, and every Unitarian Church should form a small Ratification Committee and take orders from the Anti-Saloon League of the state. States like Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York and New Jersey should have strong committees in readiness. In the meantime the *Unitarian Temperance Society* will supply literature. The Eastern states are low in education.

*Now!*—This moment!—the thing to do is to get behind the primaries and see that only Dry Men go to the Legislature. That is the politics of it. The education of it is poster campaigns and distribution of literature (much needed in the East). Rhode Island, New York and New Jersey must not fail next year as they did this.

If Massachusetts had enough red-blooded, middle-class virility to ratify—any state has! Please do not let the Methodists and Baptists do it all.

## FORM RATIFICATION COMMITTEES NOW!

*Create Dry Sentiment!*

*Send Dry Men to the Legislature!*

—*E. Tilton.*

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